

# Arlington Sustainable Transportation Plan

STPAC Meeting 2  
April 6, 2020



DRAFT



# THIS MORNING

01 | Town Introduction

02 | Existing Conditions Overview

03 | Engagement Strategy Overview

| Brand

| STPAC Role

| Engagement Strategy (Discussion)

| Survey (Discussion)

04 | Schedule, Closing and Next Steps



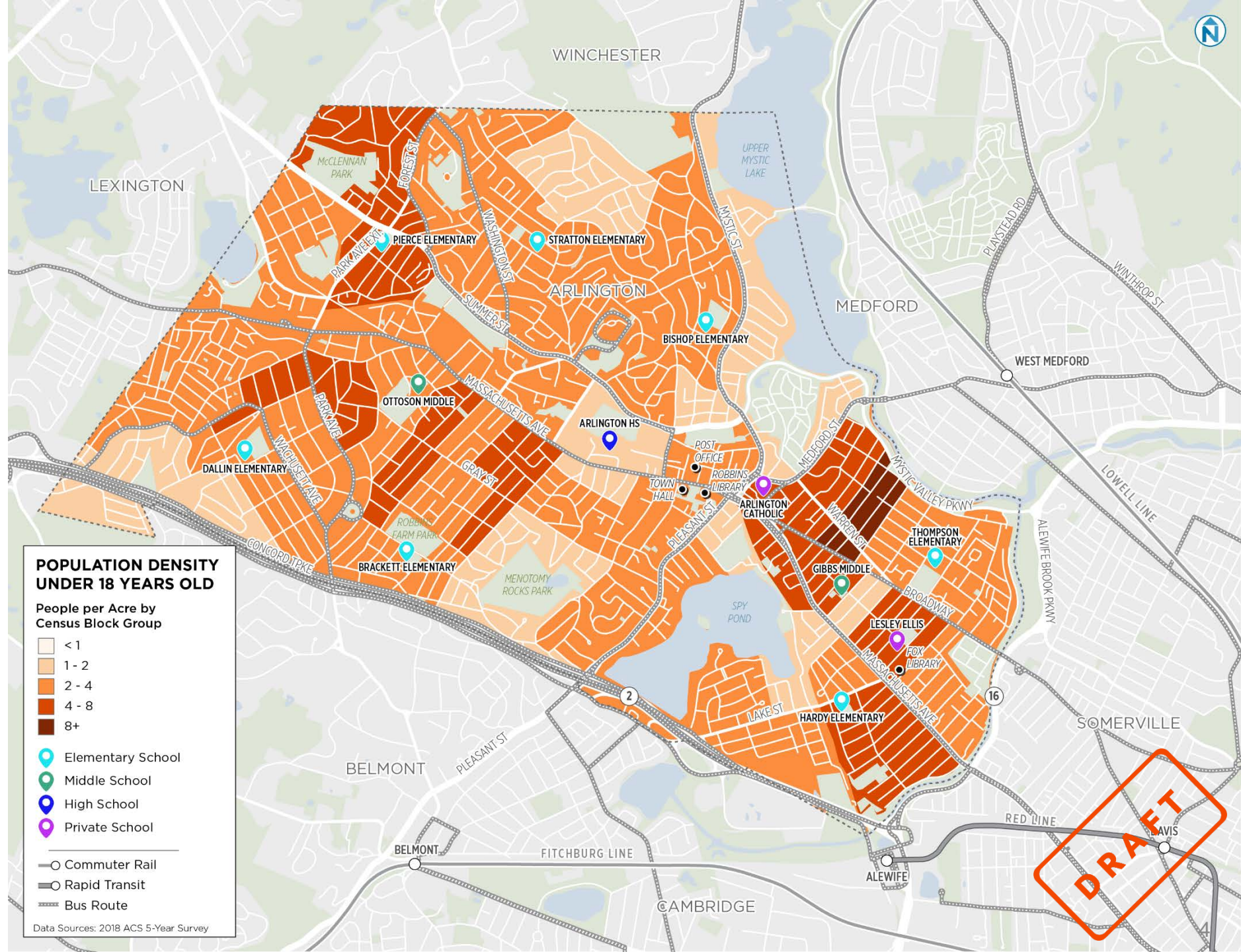
## 02 | EXISTING CONDITIONS OVERVIEW





# POPULATION UNDER 18

Student aged children  
are dispersed  
throughout town.



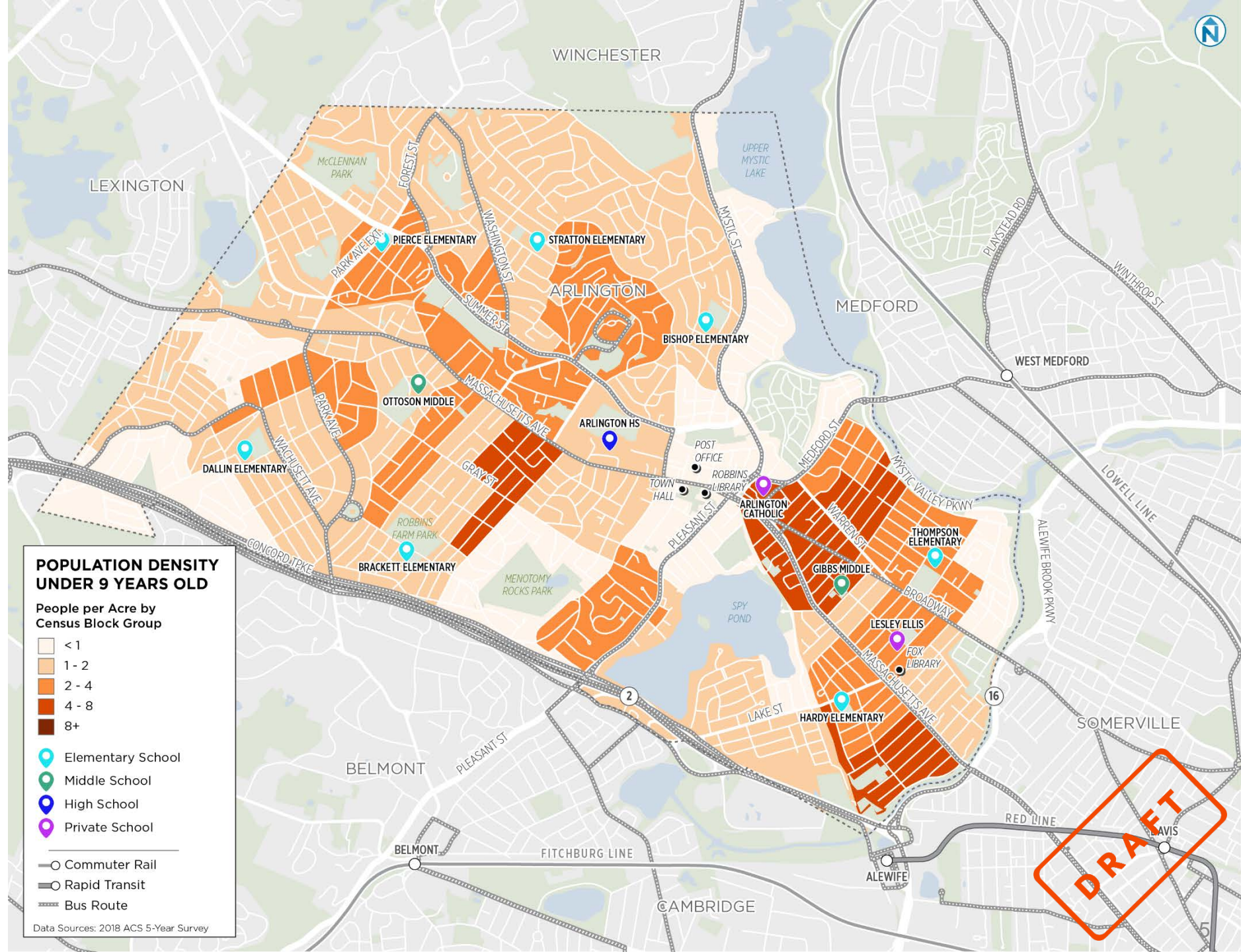


# POPULATION UNDER 9

Elementary school aged children are dispersed throughout Arlington, with higher densities around Arlington Center and East Arlington.

## What this tells us?

- Arlington's Neighborhood Schools are within a short walk or bike ride from all children.
- Pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure must prioritize safety.



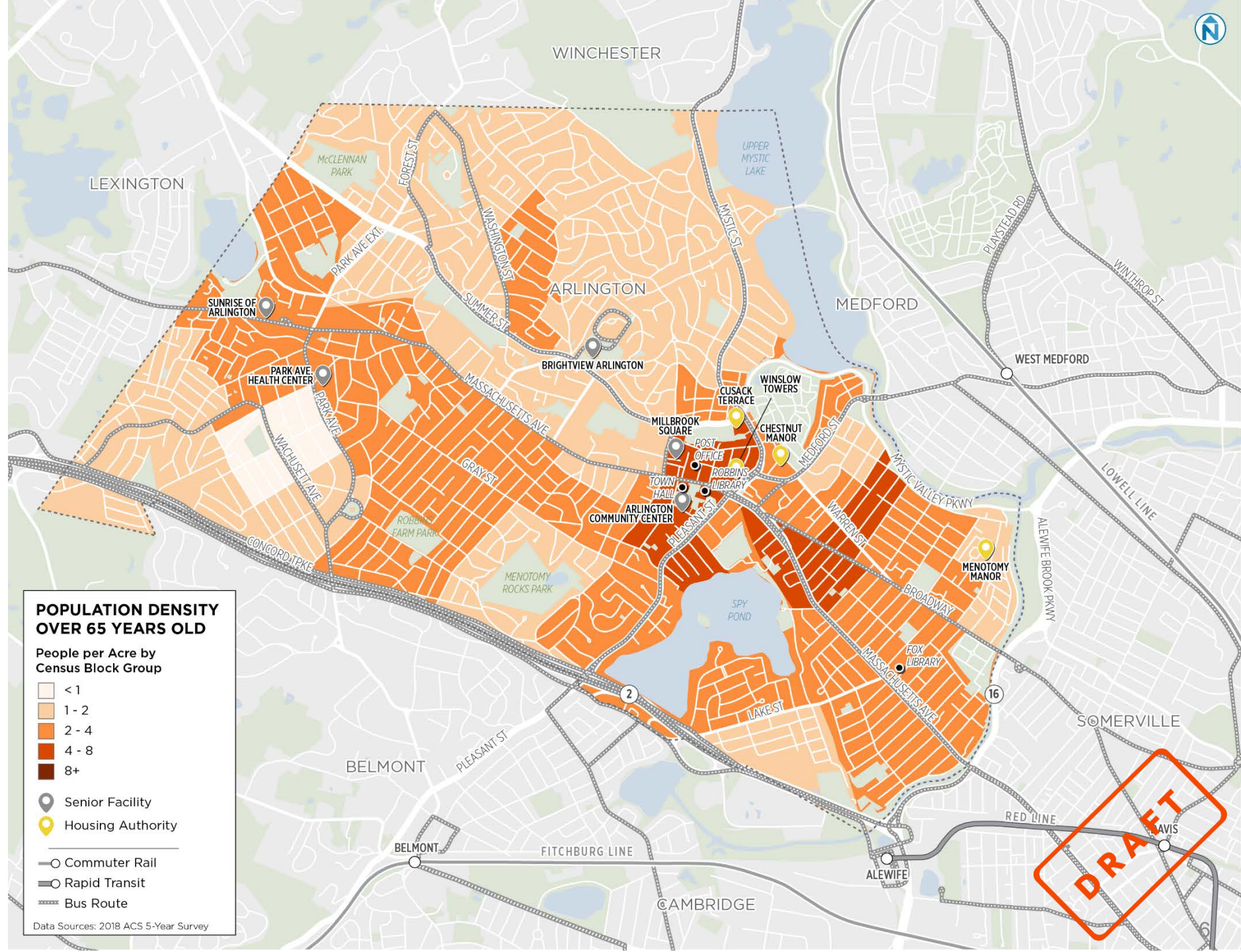


# POPULATION OVER 65

Arlington's senior population lives throughout Town, but the greatest density is around Arlington Center.

## What this tells us?

- Many seniors live close to the Arlington Community Center.
- Seniors with mobility challenges in hilly areas likely rely solely on vehicular travel.
- Multiple transportation strategies are needed to address different challenges.
- There is overlap between the highest densities of residents over 65 and under 9.
  - Planning for seniors and young children result in an "all ages" approach.



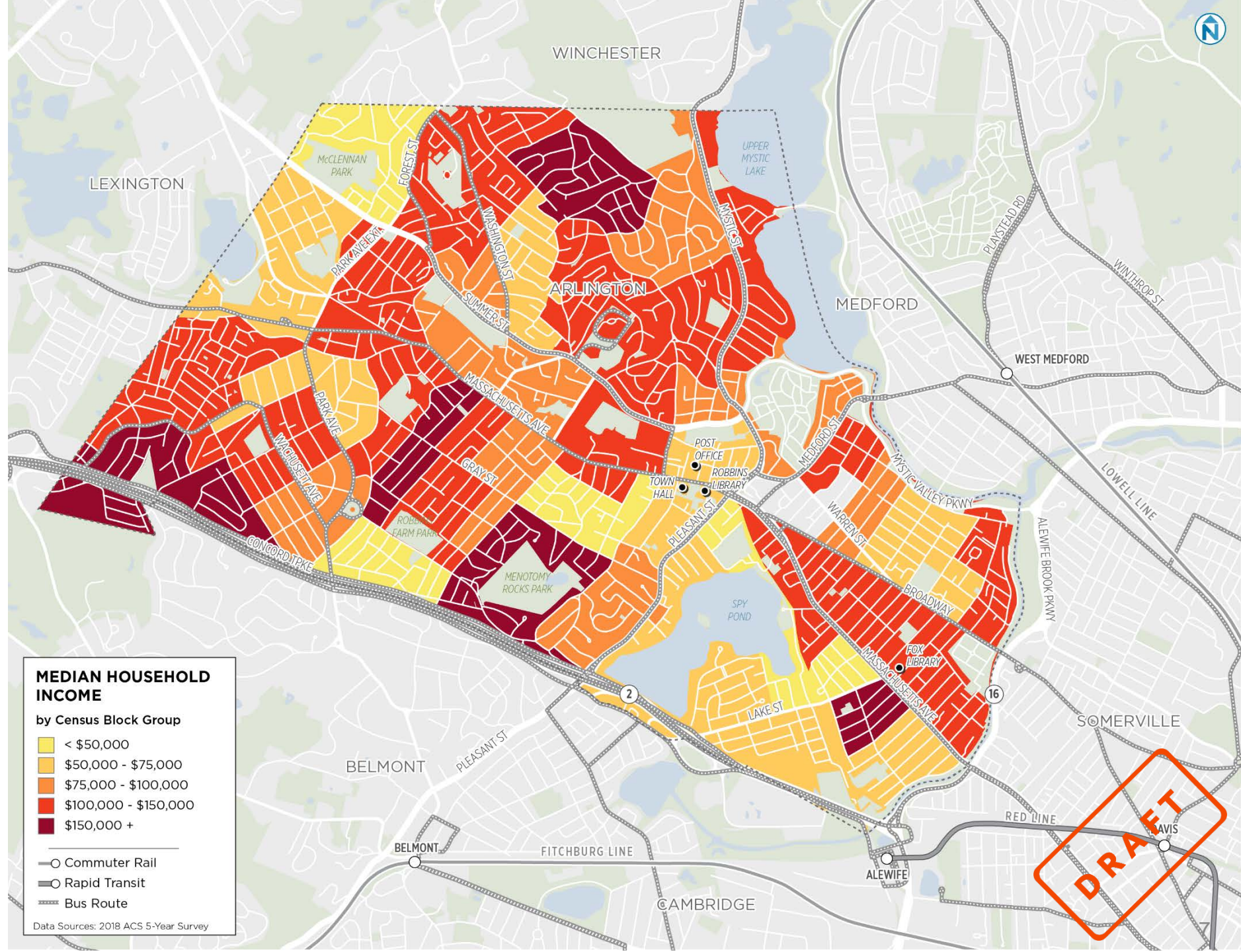


# HOUSEHOLD INCOMES

Incomes are high overall but vary geographically.

What does this tell us?

- Multiple car ownership is within reach of most households.



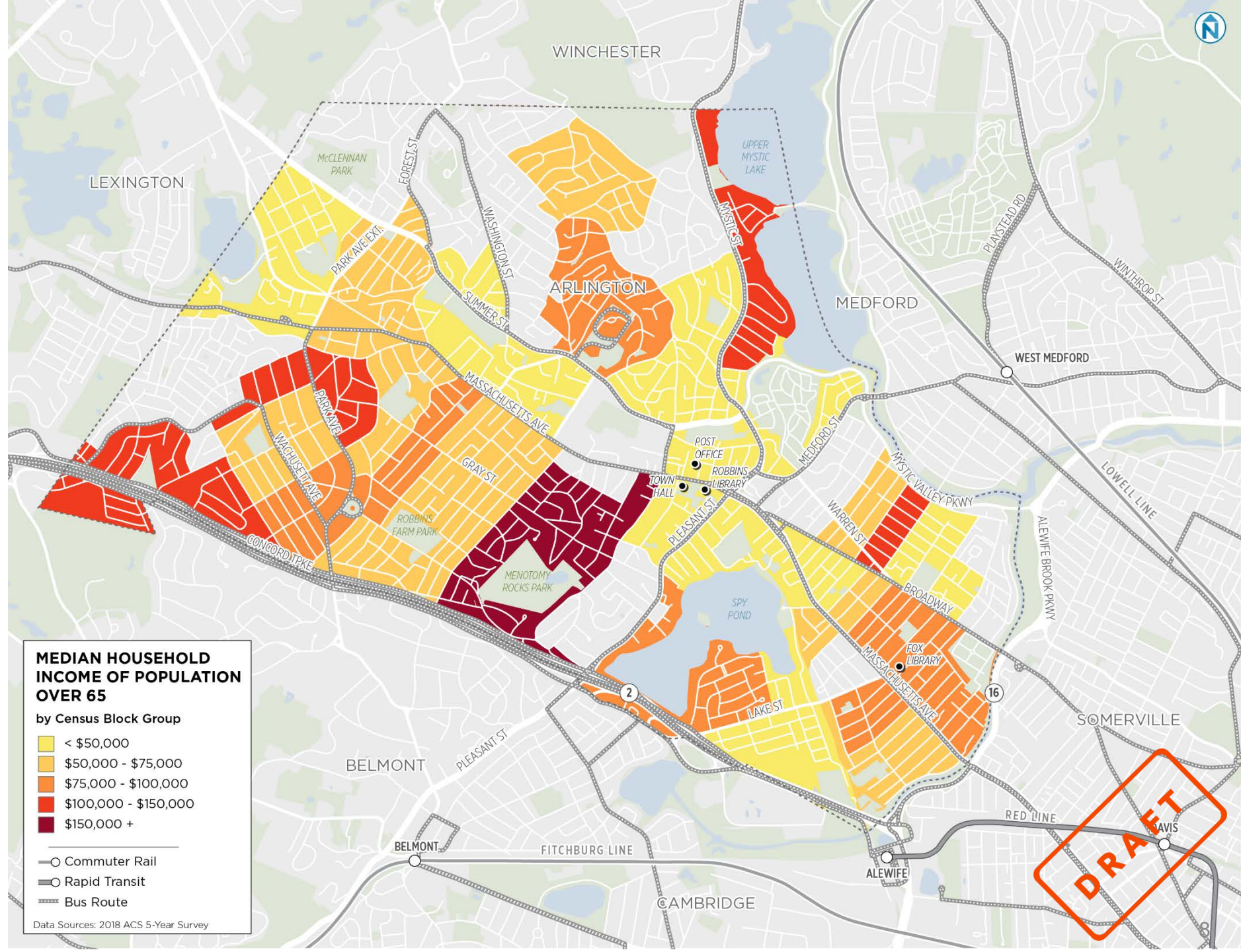


# HOUSEHOLD INCOMES 65+

Incomes of households over 65 vary widely across town; but incomes are lowest in Arlington Center and areas along Mass Ave.

## What this tells us:

- Arlington Center is home to many lower income residents 65+.
- Lower income seniors in Arlington Center are within walking distance to Arlington Community Center and neighborhood retail. (short trips)
- Lower income seniors have good transit connectivity and access to Minuteman path.
- People over 65 are still working, and have high incomes.



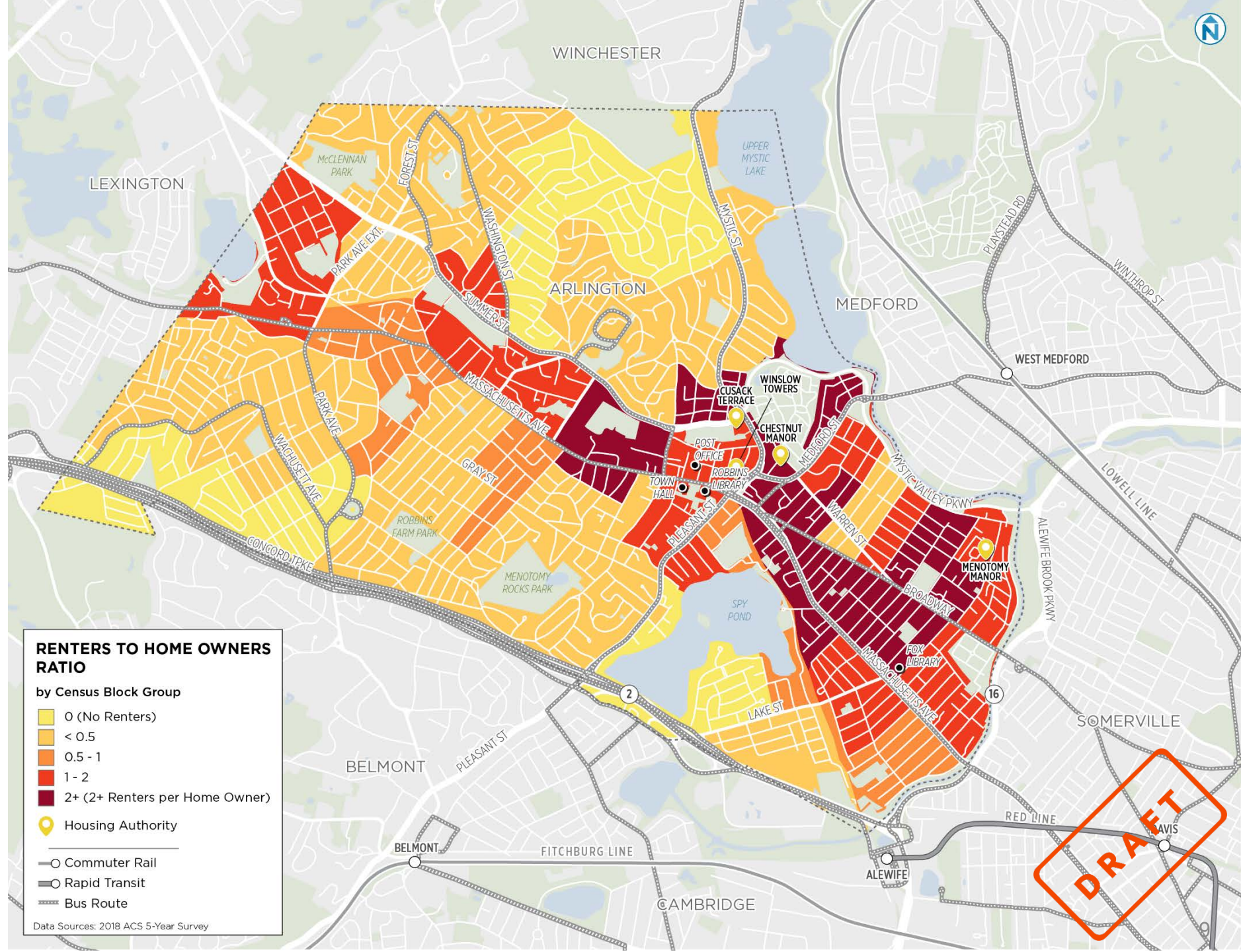


# RENTERS V. OWNERS

Rental households are primarily located in the three village centers along Mass Ave.

## What this tells us?

- Rental households have greater bus connectivity that owner households.
- Areas with higher rental households, tend to have more amenities within walking distance.
- Areas that are predominantly owner require longer trips to amenities, and are also in areas with greater topography (and transportation) challenges.



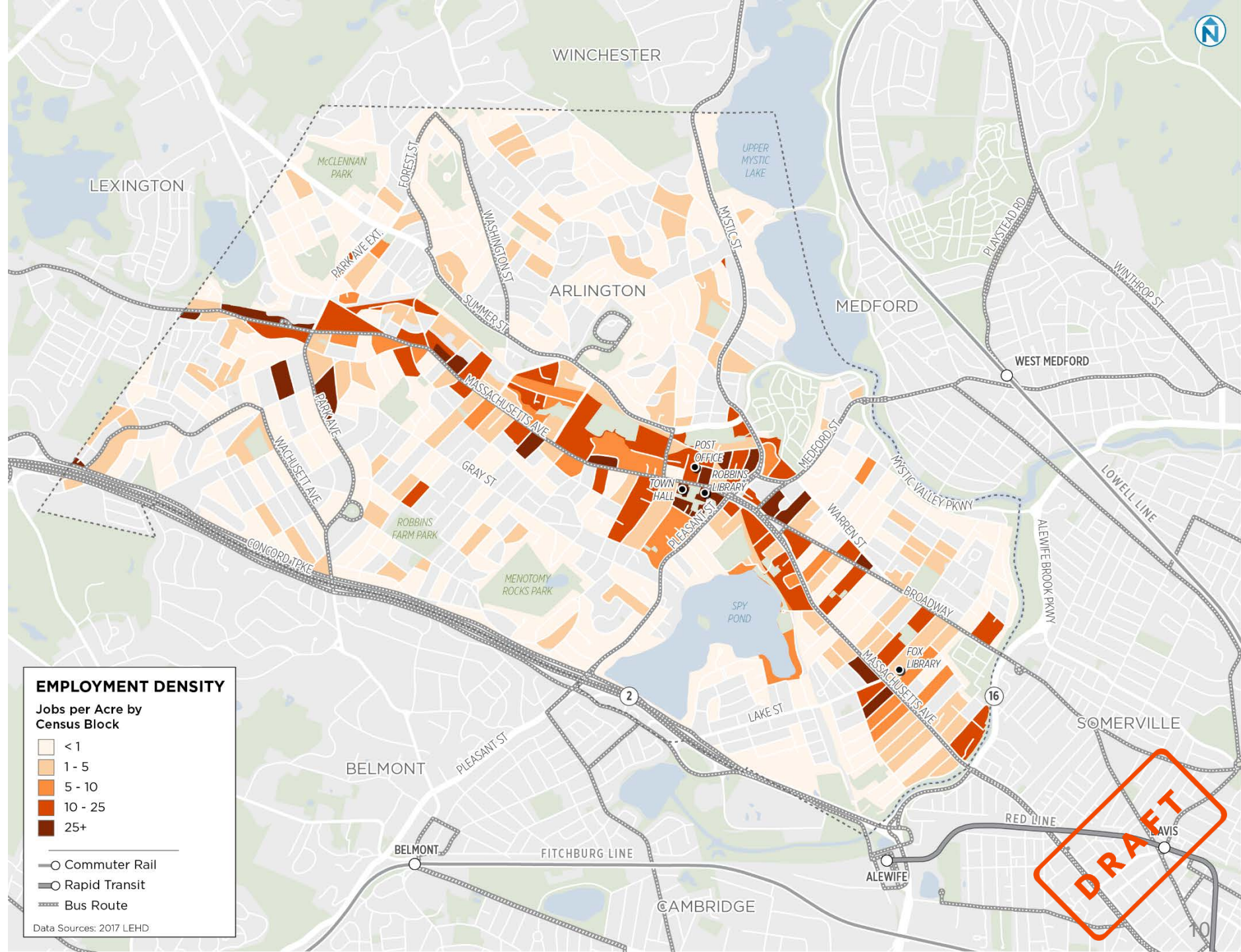


# WHERE ARE JOBS IN ARLINGTON LOCATED?

**Most jobs are located along the Mass Ave.**

**What does this tell us?**

- 1) Mass Ave is the central spine (literally) of Arlington and within a short walk or bike ride of most residents.
- 2) Mass Ave has strong transit (bus) service to connect workers from Arlington and beyond to jobs.
- 3) Minuteman Bikeway connects workers (and customers) to Mass Ave.
- 4) Potential for land use policies that encourage infill development attractive to “car-free or car-light” households.



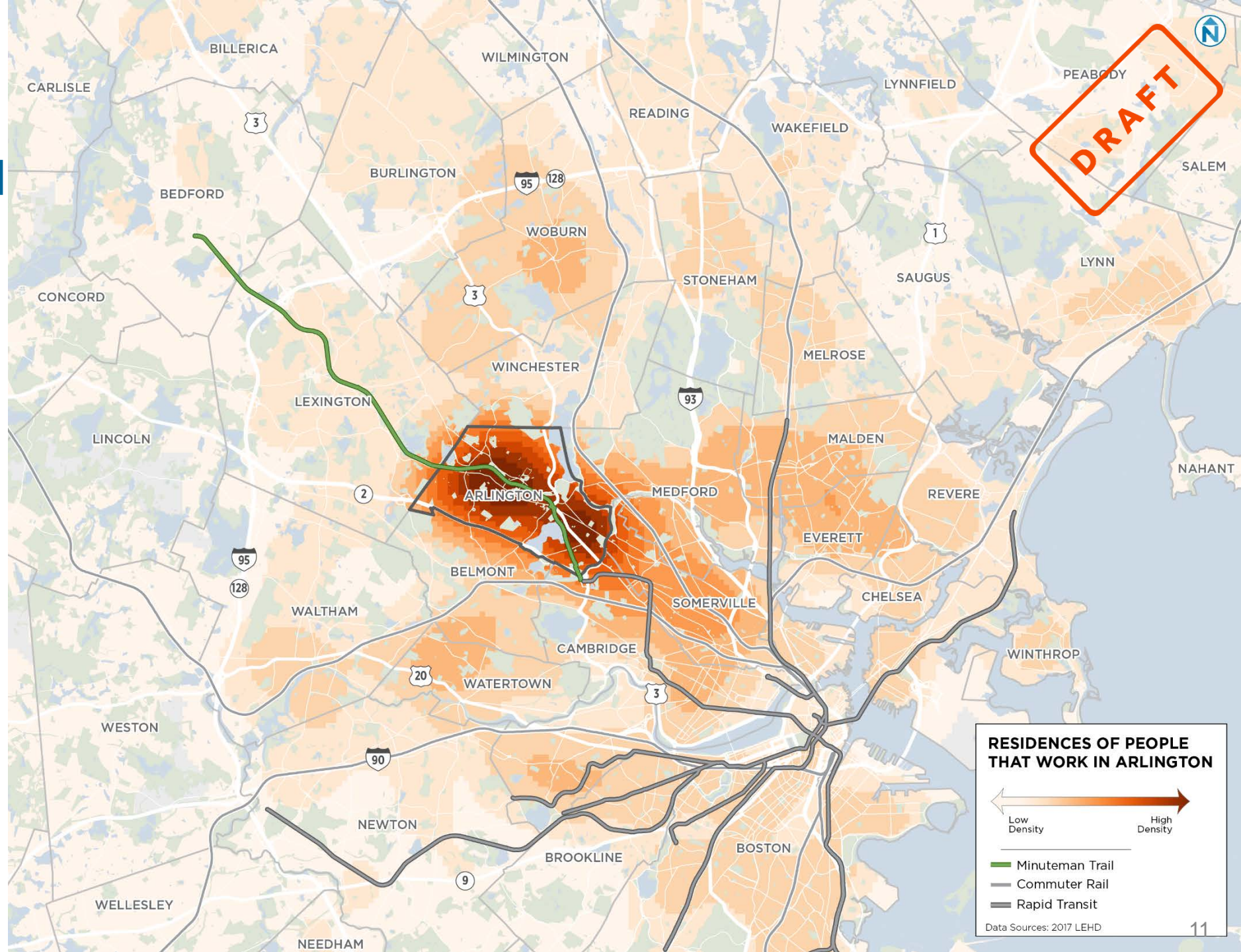


# RESIDENCES OF PEOPLE THAT WORK IN ARLINGTON

The majority of workers at Arlington businesses live in Arlington or close by.

Why is this important?

- 1) Many can walk or bike
- 2) Many can take MBTAbus (and rail with transfer to bus or bike).



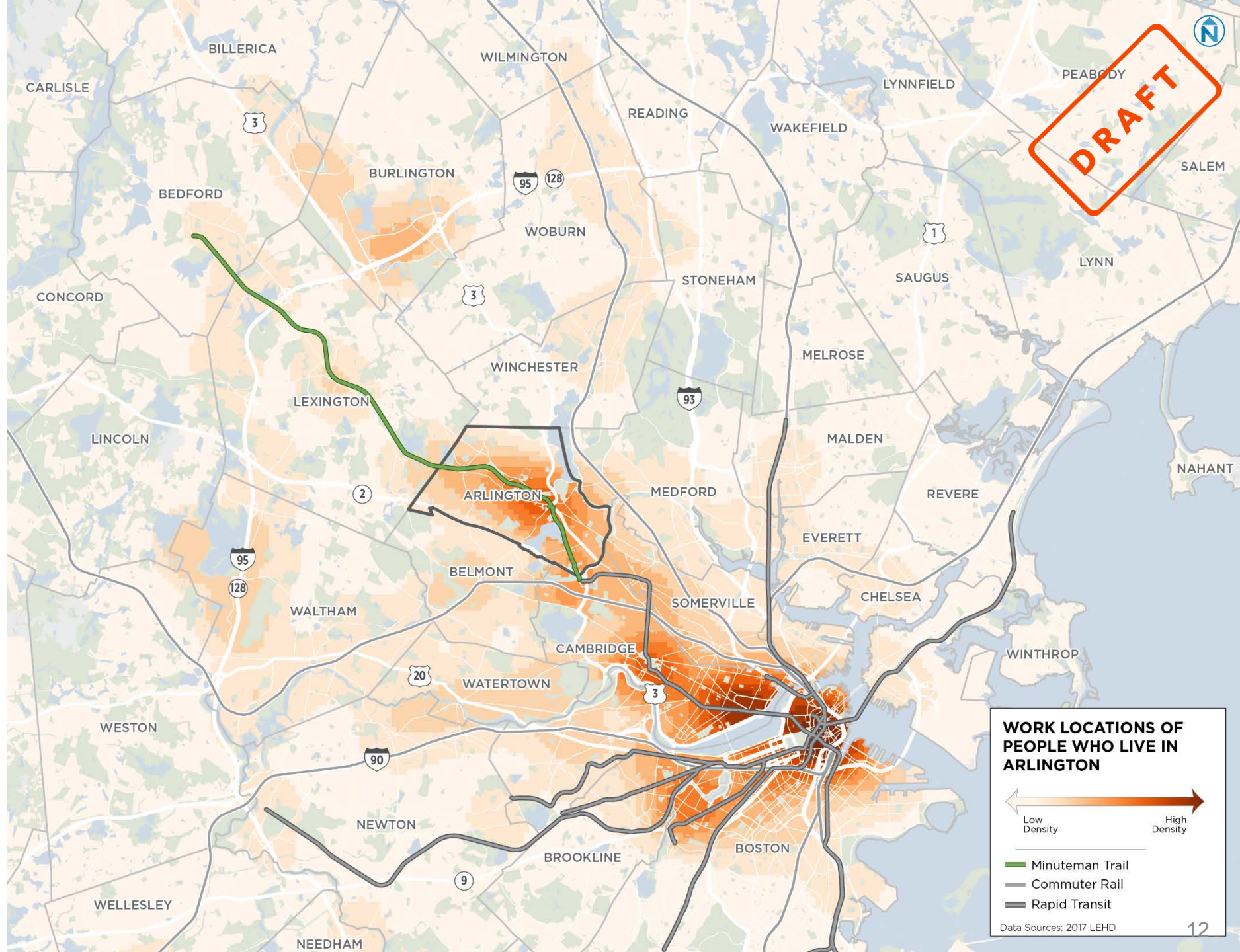


# WHERE DO ARLINGTON RESIDENTS WORK?

**Most Arlington residents work in Arlington, Cambridge or Boston.**

## Why is this important?

- 1) Residents who work in Arlington can walk or bike to work.
- 2) Cambridge and Boston jobs are accessible by transit, and for some, bicycle.
- 3) Waltham, Burlington and Watertown likely require a car, but are relatively close.



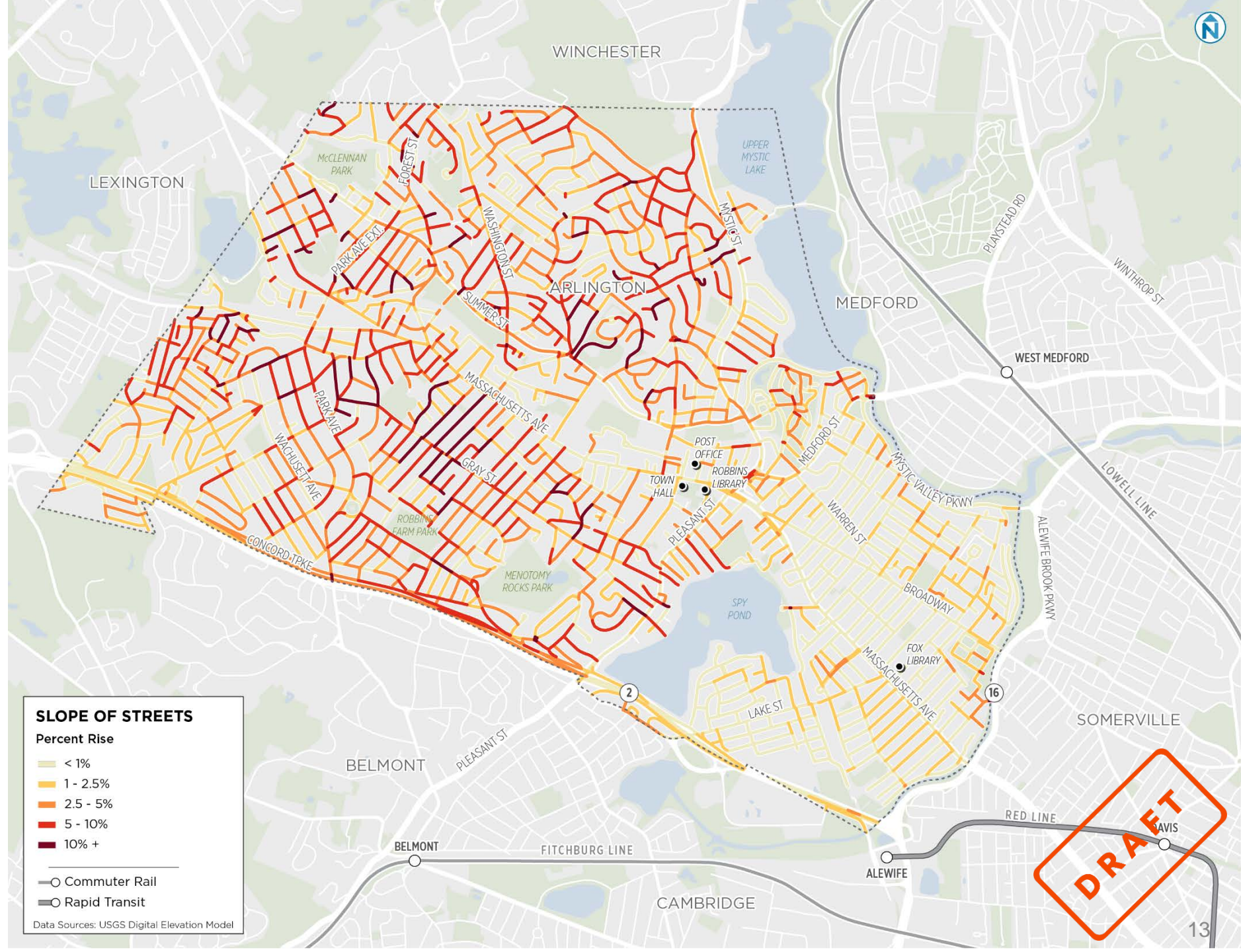


# SLOPE OF STREETS

Topography varies widely in different areas of town.

## What this tells us?

- Areas with steep slopes require different mobility solutions than those in flatter areas.
- Walking and biking is more challenging, especially for those with mobility challenges.
- Cross town travel west of Pleasant Street is more challenging for walking and biking.
- East Arlington is flat and more conducive to all modes of travel.
- Mass Ave runs through the valley.



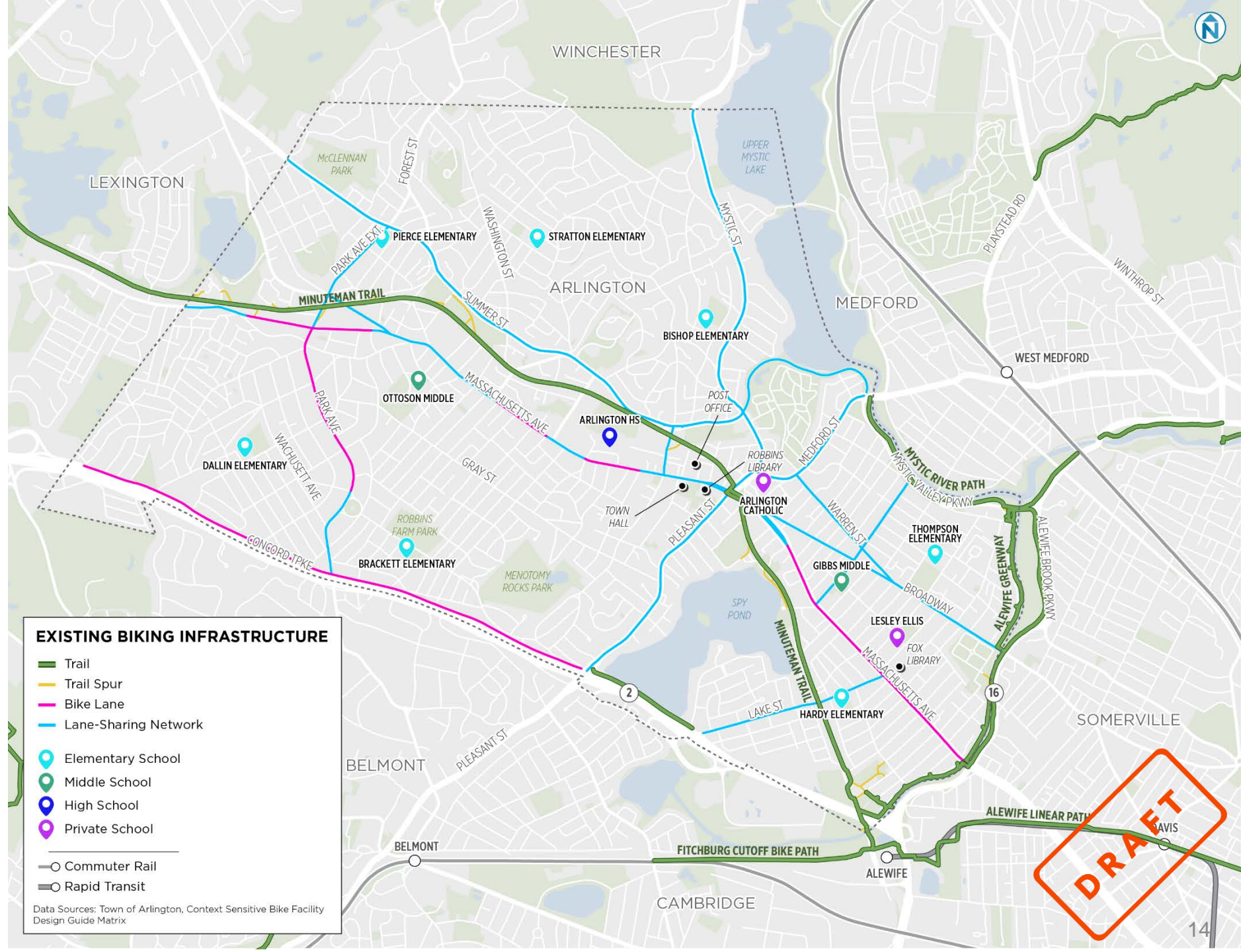


# BICYCLE FACILITIES

Arlington's existing bike network consists of trails, a limited number of bike lanes and a lane-sharing network radiating from Arlington Center.

## What this tells us?

- The Minuteman Trail – the spine of the network – provides a quality recreational and commuter bicycling option.
- Few roads provide dedicated bicycle lanes that improve bicycle safety and comfort
- Shared streets don't offer most bicyclists a sense of safety.





# TRANSIT SERVICES

## Arlington has high bus connectivity to Boston/Cambridge.

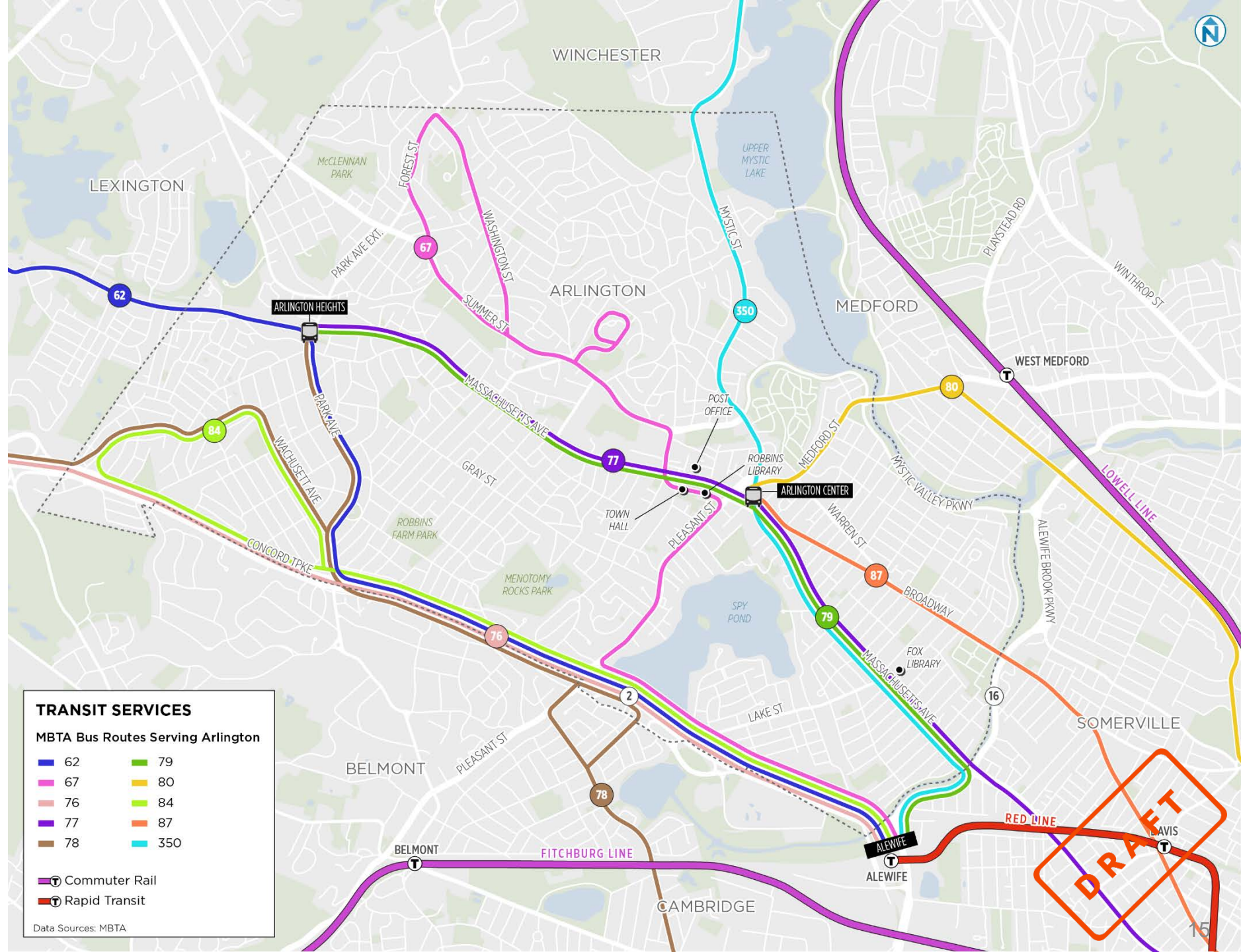
- **10 MBTA bus routes**
  - 6 connect to Alewife/Red Line
  - 2 connect to Harvard Square
  - 2 connect to Lechmere

## Additional connections to subway and commuter rail located within walking or biking distance.

- **Red Line (southern border)**
- **2 Commuter Rail stations**
  - West Medford
  - Belmont

## What this tells us?

- Existing transit is designed to move people to and from Boston/Cambridge.
- Few transit options to other communities or job centers.
- Connections within Arlington by transit are limited to Mass Ave. (or require transfers)



### TRANSIT SERVICES

#### MBTA Bus Routes Serving Arlington

62	79
67	80
76	84
77	87
78	350

Commuter Rail  
Rapid Transit

Data Sources: MBTA



## 03 | ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY





# PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT GOALS + BRAND

## What must the engagement strategy accomplish?

- Build awareness of and excitement for the plan
- Reach a variety of constituents and community interests to create recommendations that are comprehensive and equitable
- Inform plan priorities and actions





# PUBLIC LAUNCH

## Create excitement and a place to get information

- Project Website
  - Lead: Town of Arlington
  - <https://www.arlingtonma.gov/town-governance/all-boards-and-committees/sustainable-transportation-advisory-committee>
  - Support: NN – project brand and deliverables
- Press Release & Social Media
  - To announce survey / workshops
- Flier / Postcard Announcements





# THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ROLE (IN ENGAGEMENT)



- Maximize knowledge from many perspective.
- Outreach to community. Get people to show up!
  - Run “Plan in a Box” Meetings.

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# ONGOING OPTION: “ENGAGEMENT-IN-A-BOX”

Discrete intercept exercises that can be used at other meetings and community events.



**ACTIVITY 1**  
Mobility Values



**ACTIVITY 2**  
Getting Around



**ACTIVITY 3**  
Mobility



**ACTIVITY 4**  
Opportunity





# PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT EVENTS: PUBLIC FORUMS

- Public Forum #1: Intro to Plan
  - June 2020
- Public Forum #2: Draft Plan
  - Fall 2020



**Newton in motion**  
A Transportation Strategy for Newton

## WHAT'S YOUR TRANSPORTATION VISION?

Missed the Newton-in-Motion visioning workshop? We want to hear from you -- online! Surveys are open until Monday, February 29.

Visit the website at  
[www.newtonma.gov/transportationstrategy](http://www.newtonma.gov/transportationstrategy)  
and share your:

- goals
- questions
- areas of concern
- and more!



**SAVE THE DATE FOR FUTURE WORKSHOPS:**  
Week of April 4th, 2016 and Week of June 13th, 2016

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# PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT EVENTS: MOBILE WORKSHOPS

- Workshop 1: Summer (Existing Conditions)
- Workshop 2: Fall (Draft Strategies)



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# INDIVIDUAL AND SMALL GROUP OUTREACH

## **Ways for people with different comfort levels to participate.**

- Online Survey
  - Link to Website and Social Media (Town and Committee pages)
  - Demographic Information
  - Transportation Practices
  - Transportation Preferences
  - Transportation Priorities
- Focus Groups
  - Transportation for All Ages Focus Group
  - Bike and Pedestrian Focus Group
  - Transit Focus Group
  - Neighborhood Transportation
  - Business and Culture Focus Group
  - Sustainability Focus Group





# SURVEY – DISCUSSION

## BRAINSTORM: What to include?

- Demographic Questions (race/ethnicity, age, income, etc.) Examples could include:
  - How long have you lived in Arlington?
  - Do children under 18 live with you?
  - Do children under 9 live with you?
  - Do adults over 65 live with you?
  - Where do you live? (List neighborhoods)
- Transportation mode choice and behaviors. Examples could include:
  - How do you travel to work? (bus, train, car, bike, walk, other)
    - Car
    - Car to Red Line
    - Bus
    - Bus to Red Line
    - Walk
    - Walk to Red Line
    - Bike
    - Bike to Red Line
    - Other: \_\_\_\_\_
  - How do you get to the grocery store? (bus, train, car, bike, walk, other)
  - Do you feel safe bicycling in Arlington? (yes, no)
    - If no, why? \_\_\_\_\_
- Priority investments and more:
  - What type of transportation investments should be a priority?
  - What type of bicycle facilities should be emphasized?





# DISCUSSION: ADAPTING ENGAGEMENT

## How will we need to adapt efforts in a COVID-19 world?

- Online survey allows people to participate while practicing social distancing.
  - Include wikimap for place specific input.
- Focus groups move to virtual meetings using Zoom (or similar) platform?
- Public Forums?
- Mobile Workshops – plan for physical distancing?



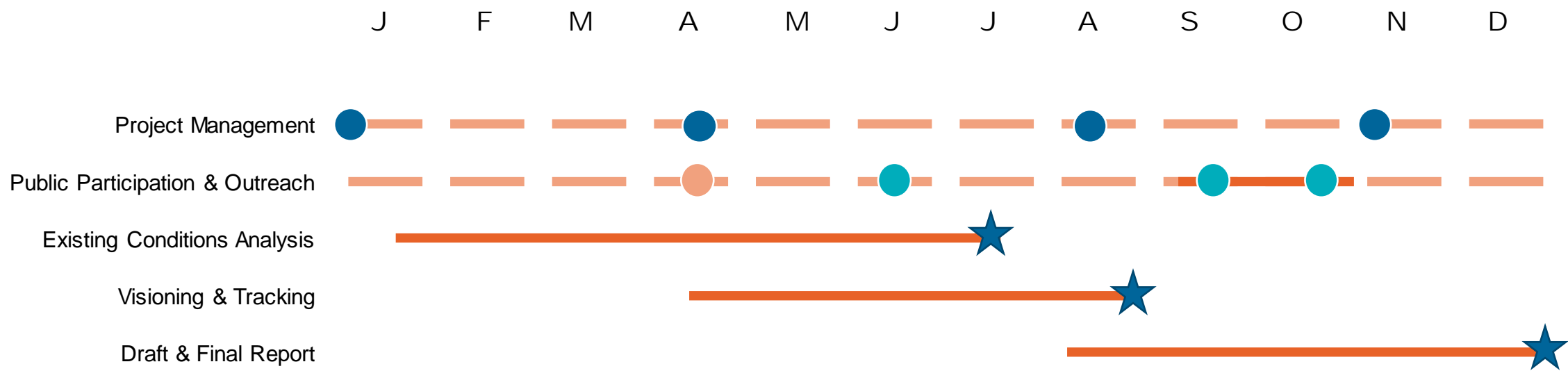


## 04 | PROJECT SCHEDULE





# TIMELINE



- Survey and Focus Groups (Online/Virtual)
- Public Meetings (Format TBD)
- STPAC Meetings
- ★ Deliverable





THANK YOU.

